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or positively worthless law books, is not apparent. At the best the book is elementary; never profound, and at times it barely rises above the rudimentary. Its style is variable, being sometimes clear and logical, but more often verbose and involved. The occasional digressions of the author to topics having little or nothing to do with the subject, as witness in Sec. 117, his discussion of the magnitude of business interests involving *locatio* and *conductio* bailments, and in Sec. 244 his five-page examination of the question of what is value in the transfer of negotiable paper, add nothing to the value of a work devoted to the subject of bailments and carriers, and appropriate space which could be used to better advantage. In short, a careful examination of the book fails to disclose wherein the author has in any important particular improved upon standard works like Schouler or Hutchinson, or raised his work above the level of the flood of law books which is being poured upon us in this era of rapid but indifferent bookmaking.

A CODE OF NEGLIGENCE. By John Brooks Leavitt. Albany: Matthew Bender. 1903. pp. xlviii, 802.

The codification attempted in this book is confined to the decisions of the court of last resort in a single State. Not the entire law of negligence, as that has been developed by judges and writers in England and the United States, is here presented, but those points only which have been directly in issue and actually adjudicated in the Court of Errors and the Court of Appeals of New York. One would expect it to be a fragmentary code, and it is, reminding the reader of Sir Frederick Pollock's famous description of the uncoded law of England. It "presents to the legal mind's eye a view not unlike the visible fabric of the Law Courts a year or two ago—here pinnacles receiving the last touch, there walls only rising from the ground. And, what is still more curious, the gaps are by no means confined to the places where one would expect them. An admirer of case-law as opposed to systematic legislation might prophesy beforehand that the natural growth of lawsuits in the commonwealth would be accompanied by a process of natural selection, whereby just those points would arise for decision which the convenience of the public then and there required to be decided. * * * It is quite certain that these expectations are not fulfilled. All kinds of curious little questions receive elaborate answers, while great ones remain in a provoking state of uncertainty."

To present a book as a code of negligence which is and must be full of gaps at important points does not commend itself to us as an ideal performance. And yet such a book has its advantages for the busy practitioner at the New York State bar. It saves him the necessity of reading a multitude of cases containing only dicta, and it is much more compact and complete than the general digest. A vast amount of careful work seems to have been expended on the volume. Its labor-saving devices are many and ingenious. In the first part, we have a codification of general principles, under each division of which all the rulings of the Court of Errors and Court of Appeals are given, with reference foot-notes to all corresponding cases in the various Appellate Divisions. In the second part is presented a con-

densed statement of the material facts of the various cases from the court of last resort cited in part first. The third part contains a classification of cases under a multitude of headings, such as Animals, Assaults, Caving In, Coal Holes, and the like; also a classification of verdicts for bodily injuries, with the sum awarded in each case.

MANUAL OF FRENCH LAW AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION. By H. Cleveland Cox. Paris and New York: Brentanos; London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., 1902. pp. viii, 292.

In his preface the editor describes this volume as "a compendium of the salient points in the law of France, taken from the French Codes and the Laws in vogue in France at the present day, together with special articles by experts on subjects of particular interest to American and English business men, travelers, and persons having business and social relations with France, students and literary persons desiring a handy book for reference." He also informs us that it was written principally for laymen, and yet he expresses the hope that it may be of interest and utility to the legal profession.

After a careful examination of the work, we are satisfied that it ought not to be classed as a law book. Many of the articles have no legal character whatever. Witness the following: "*Death, Period of Mourning*. The following are the customary periods for wearing full mourning in Paris: Widower or widow, one year; father, mother, father-in-law or mother-in-law, nine months; child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grand parents, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, six months. Half mourning is worn as follows: Widower, widow, nine months; father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, six months, other members of the family three months." In the treatment of other topics there is a considerable admixture of legal rules, principles and phraseology, but throughout the volume as a whole law is in a state of high dilution. Two pages are devoted to "dressmakers" and six and one-half lines to "sales." The article on "drunkenness" opens with the statement that so rare is drunkenness in France that legislation on the subject is rather meagre." Certainly the references in the article to legal rules are meagre in the extreme.

If one examined the book, however, not as a manual of law but as a compendium of miscellaneous and interesting information, flavored with law, he will find it very satisfactory. The trouble and expense that one makes his friends by inconsiderately dying in a hotel are clearly set forth under the head of "Death In A Hotel." Much good advice, but very little law, is served up to the reader in connection with "Letters of Credit," while "Finance and Banking in France" contains considerable history, a variety of instructive statistics, and many useful business hints. An account of the "Metric System" is supplemented with tables for the conversion of metric weights and measures into customary United States equivalents, and the revenues, which would often prove valuable to an American sojourner in France.

As the topics are arranged in alphabetical order, and cross-references are freely indulged in, it is a book of easy reference, even without a table of contents or an index. The printing, binding and general appearance of the volume are beyond criticism.